

Statement on Cigarette Taxes
by Governor Haley Barbour
April 27, 2004

Raising Cigarette Taxes is an Addiction Tax on the Poor

“I am against raising anybody’s taxes. I think raising cigarette taxes by 50% is a particularly bad idea because it is a tax on the poor.

The median income of Mississippi’s 600,000 smokers is \$23,000. For non-smokers in our State, the median income is \$31,000.* In other words, raising cigarette taxes is a budget fix on the backs of Mississippi’s low-income families.

I do not want to be a part of taxing other people’s addiction just because State government can’t control its own addiction to out-of-control spending.”

*Centers for Disease Control's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System for 2002.